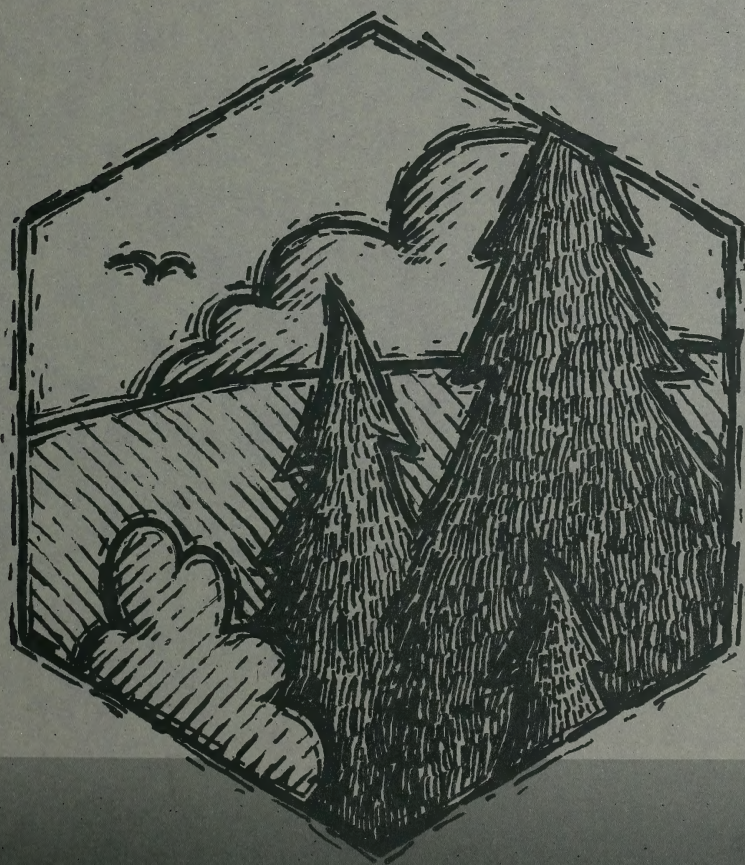


HILLIARD'S BAY

PROVINCIAL PARK

Management Plan




Copies of this management plan may be obtained from:

The Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park
Environmental Protection, Natural Resources

Natural Resources Service
High Prairie Area Office
Box 236

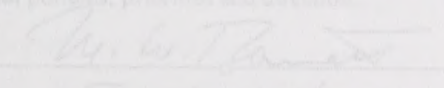
The Plan is a commitment by the Government of Alberta to the protection and management of resources in Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park.

High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0
Phone 403-523-6520
Fax 403-523-6525


Date June 17/99

Per Long, Regional Director
Natural Resources Service
Northwest Regional Region


This plan is consistent with the provisions of the Provincial Parks Act and Regulations and with provincial policies, priorities and direction.


Date Sept. 13/99

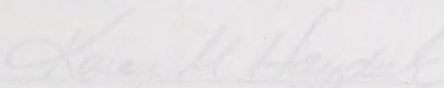
Mervyn Barrett
Assistant Deputy Minister
Alberta Environmental Protection

Acknowledgements

The Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park Management Plan is recommended for approval and implementation.


Date May 13/99

Chris Brandt
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Date May 13, 1999

Karen Hayduk, Conservation Officer
Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park

The team responsible for preparation of the management plan included John Doh, Christine Scotland, Karen Hayduk, Chris Brandt and Elaine Nepstad.

Thank you to those who reviewed the draft management plan. Your input and support for the park is appreciated.

October 1999



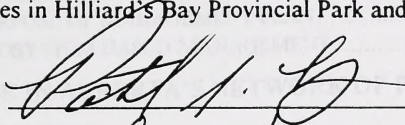
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Approval Statement

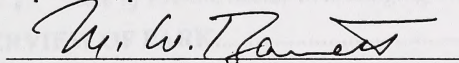
The Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park Management Plan is the official plan of Alberta Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Service.

The Plan is a commitment by the Northwest Boreal Region to the protection and management of resources in Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park and the provision of recreation opportunities within it.


Date June 17 / 99

*Pat Long, Regional Director
Natural Resources Service
Northwest Boreal Region*

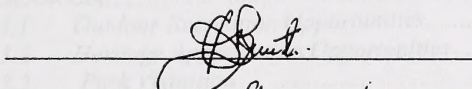
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Date Sept. 13 / 99

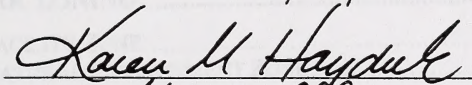
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The Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park Management Plan is recommended for approval and implementation.


Date May 14 / 99

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The team responsible for preparation of the management plan included John Doll, Christine Scotland, Karen Hayduk, Chris Bruntlett, and Elaine Nepstad.

Thank you to those who reviewed the draft management plan. Your interest and support for the park is appreciated.

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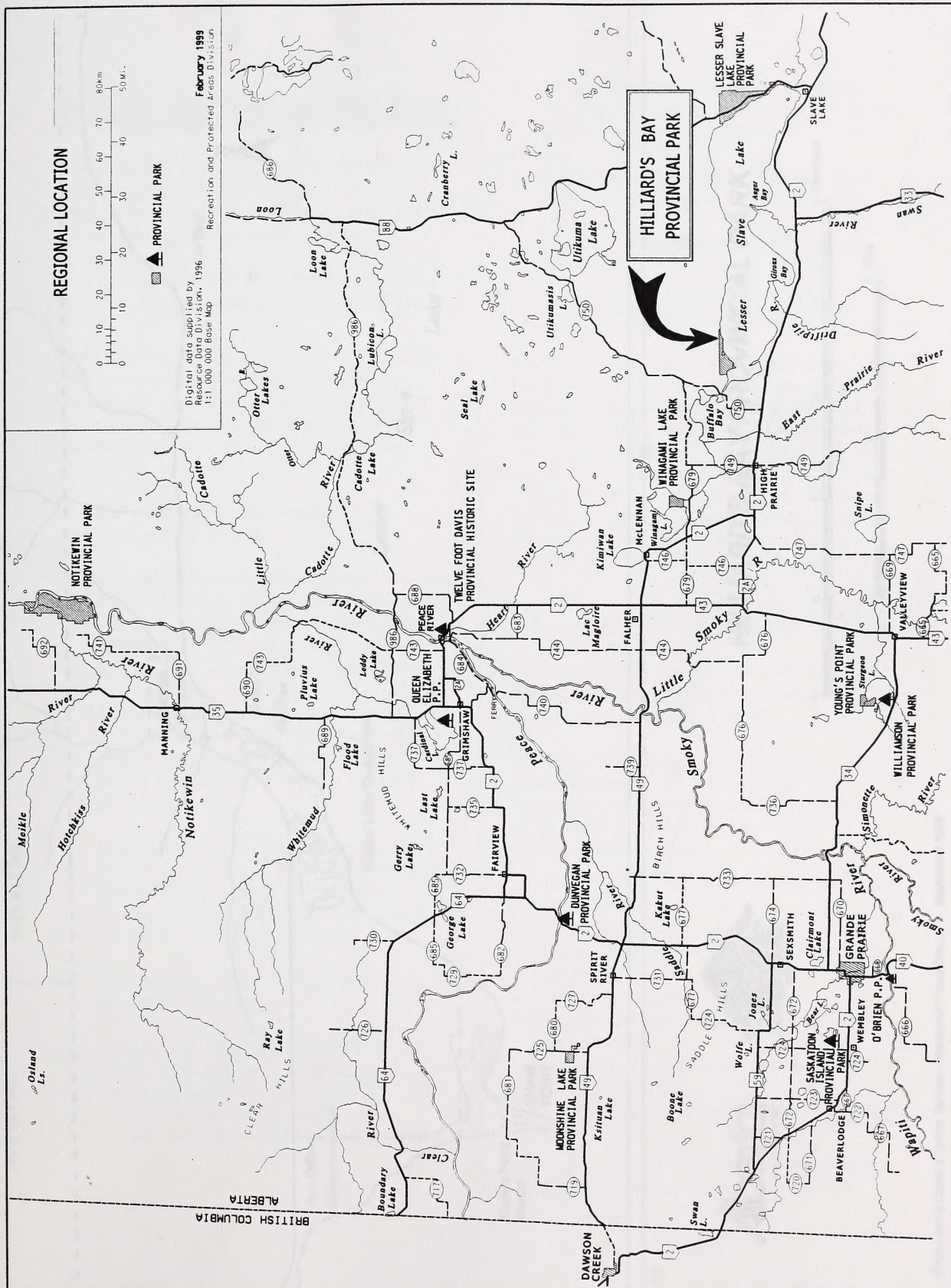
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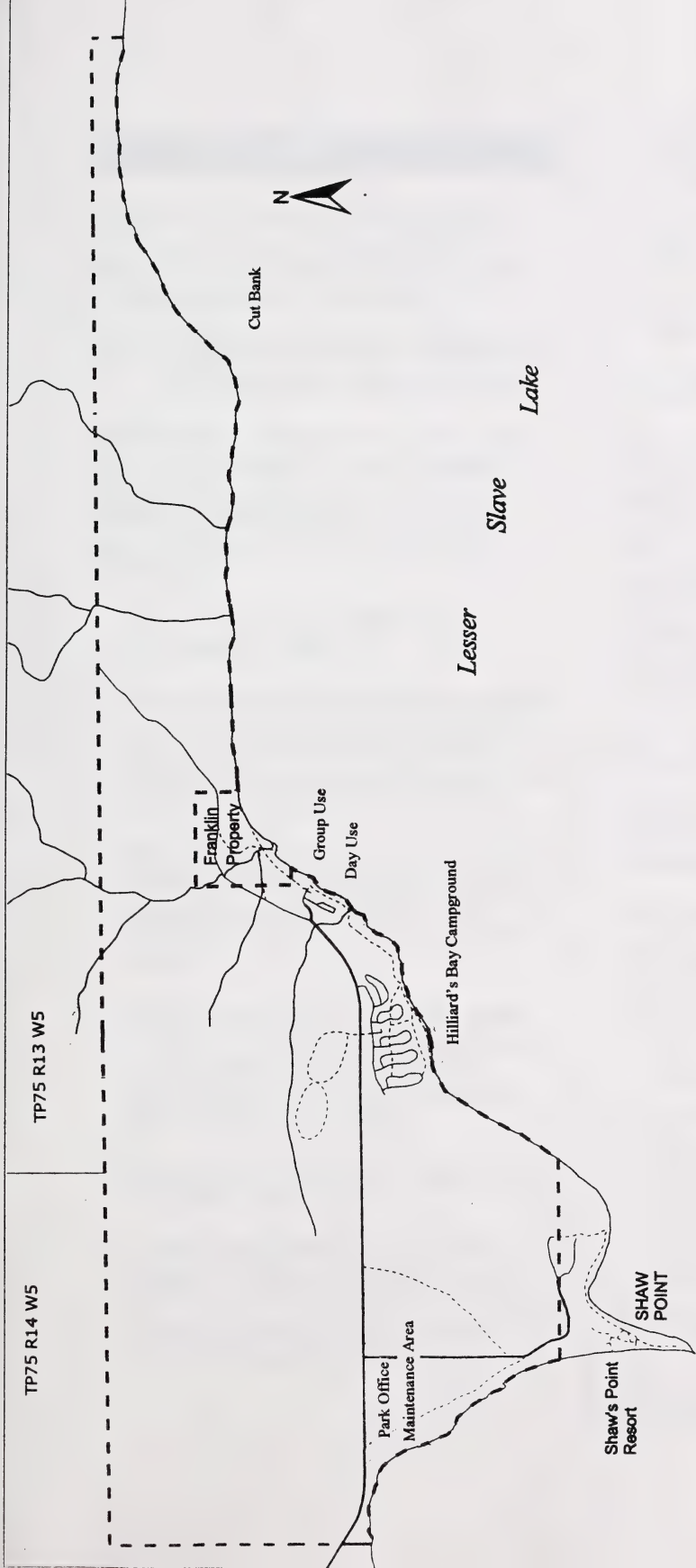
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A vertical scale bar with two sets of markings. The left set is labeled in kilometers (km) from 0 to 80 in increments of 10. The right set is labeled in miles (mi) from 0 to 50 in increments of 10. The scale is used to measure the length of the transect line.


PROVINCIAL PARK

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Resource Data Division, 1996
1:1 000 000 Base Map
February 1999
Recreation and Protected Areas Division





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HILLIARD'S BAY PROVINCIAL PARK



1.0 Introduction

Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park covers about 2,329 hectares (about 23 square kilometers) along the northwest shore of Lesser Slave Lake. It was designated a provincial park in 1978.

1.1 Significant Natural Features of Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park

Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park has many natural features, but several of them are significant because they are either unique to the area or are outstanding representations of their kind in the region (Nordstrom 1979). They include the following:

- Some of the best *sand beaches* in northwestern Alberta.
- *Two raised beaches* in the eastern part of the park. The longest is close to two kilometers in length, and about 65 meters above the lake level. These beaches are shorelines of a larger Lesser Slave Lake in earlier times.
- *Shoreline escarpments* east along the beach and backshore from the campgrounds to the eastern boundary. They are from three to ten meters high, and some are very steep and abrupt.
- *Slump areas* at sites along the escarpment. Slumps are chunks of land that have slipped, as a unit, down a slope. Ground water percolation above impervious clay soils is the major cause of this slippage.
- Large *stands of ostrich fern* along the banks of several creek valleys.
- *A variety of wetlands*, including a shore swamp and a flat bog. The shore swamp is only a few feet above the lake level. The large flat bog in the center of the park supports black spruce and larch.

- *A white spruce/feather moss community* near the campground. This community is the largest one of its kind in the park.
- *A white spruce/Labrador tea/sphagnum moss community* near the campground.
- *A sand and gravel deposit* in the area of Shaw's Point.

1.2 Establishment of the Park

The northwestern shoreline of Lesser Slave Lake has been used for recreation for many years, and requests for the establishment of a provincial park date back to 1947. In 1963 a reservation was placed on the land. Subsequent increasing use of Shaw's Point, and the development of an Alberta Forest Service campground, hastened the need to assess its provincial park potential. The intent to establish the park was announced in 1975, and the park was established in 1978.

1.3 Purpose of Management Plan

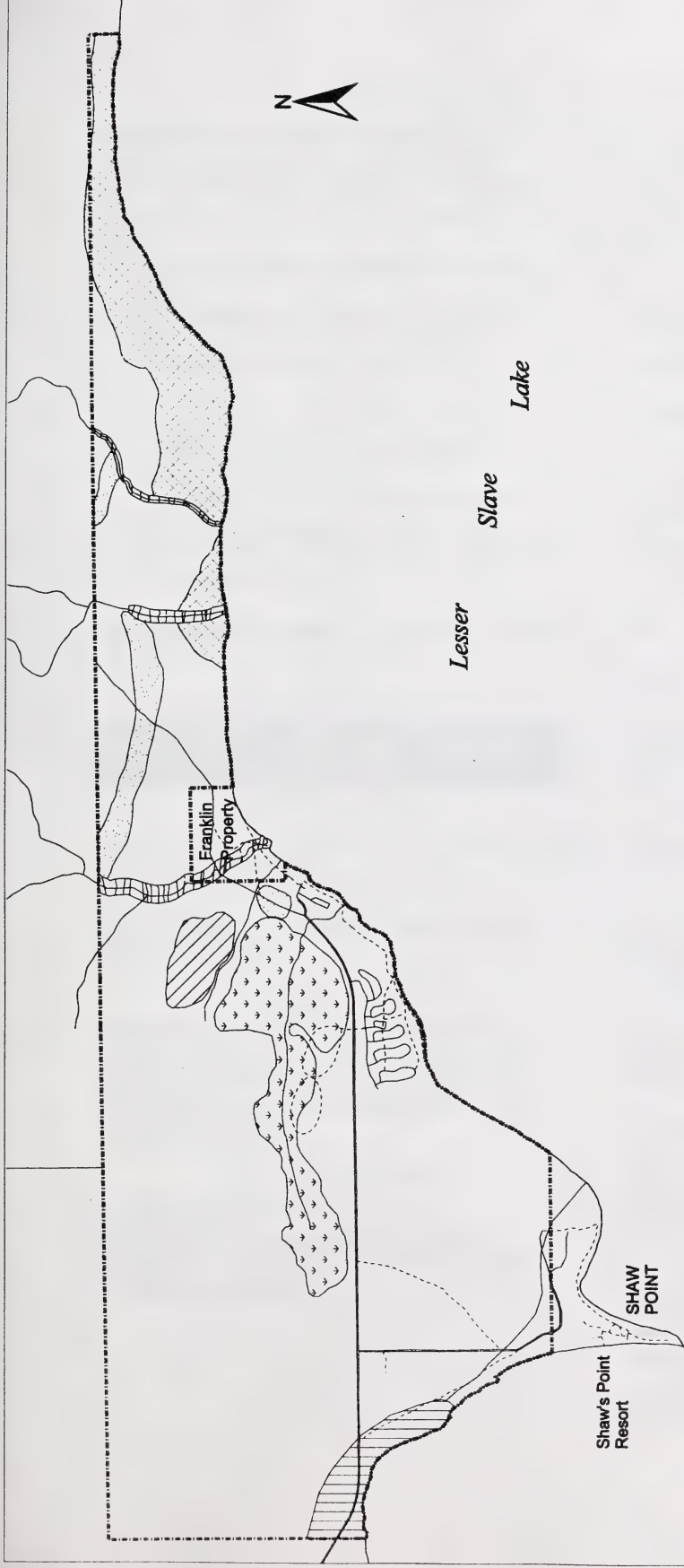
The first resource management plan was written for Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park in 1979. A master plan was produced in 1983.

This management plan has built on these previous plans. It will provide direction for management of protection and use of the park for up to ten years from its date of approval. More specifically, it will:

- place the park within the system of protected areas in Alberta;
- describe the park;
- discuss objectives and management actions for the park;
- outline surrounding land use and cooperation with surrounding land owners and managers; and
- outline implementation of the plan.

1.4 Ecosystem Based Management







Alberta Environmental Protection has adopted a management approach known as ecosystem-



HILLIARD'S BAY PROVINCIAL PARK SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE FEATURES



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- | | | |
|--|--|--|
|  Slump Area |  Creek Area with Ostrich fern |  Shore Swamp |
|  Flat Bog |  White Spruce/feathermoss |  Raised Beach |



based management. It is a comprehensive approach that involves working with others toward common goals, such as sustainability of the environment. Aspects of this approach include:

- Respect for the park's natural and cultural resources;
- Recognizing the importance of the park environment to the visitor experience;
- Consideration of local and regional economic and social factors;
- Environmentally responsible practices;
- Cooperation with other agencies and adjacent landholders; and
- Application of the principles of precaution and adaptive management – improving management by learning from the outcomes of management actions.

These will be incorporated into the management of Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park.

2.0 Role in Alberta's Network of Protected Areas

2.1 Objectives

Provincial parks contribute to Alberta's network of protected areas.

Preservation

Preserve and protect a system of provincially significant natural landscapes incorporating the greatest possible diversity of natural heritage as well as landscape related prehistorical and historical resources.

Heritage Appreciation

Provide opportunities for exploration, understanding and appreciation of natural heritage supported by range of interpretive and educational programs.

Outdoor Recreation

Provide auto access and backcountry opportunities for outdoor recreation to the extent that the activities are compatible with the preservation of natural heritage values.

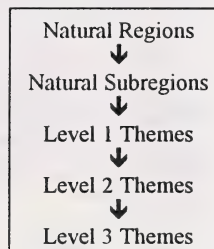
Tourism

Provide opportunities for provincial, national and international visitors to explore and experience Alberta's natural heritage.

Provincial parks, as well as other protected areas, are assessed for their contribution to these objectives. Two tools aid this assessment: first, the Natural Regions Framework which identifies representative themes of a protected area, and second, the legislative classification of the site.

2.2 Natural Regions Framework

The Alberta government is committed to protecting the natural diversity of Alberta. To help select which areas of Alberta should be protected, a framework based on natural features has been adopted. This framework is a hierarchy of natural regions, subregions, and natural history themes. Natural regions provide the "big picture" of Alberta's landscapes, such as grasslands, mountains, and boreal forest. The subregions and natural history themes are subdivisions of the natural regions, and provide a more specific picture of smaller areas.



There are six Natural Regions in Alberta (see Natural Regions map on page 5). Differences between these regions are readily apparent by their distinct landform features and vegetation.

Each of these Natural Regions has been divided into subregions based on criteria that vary depending on the Natural Region. The Boreal Forest Natural Region is divided into six subregions based on vegetation, geology and landforms. These subregions vary with the

predominant forest cover, the topography (level, undulating, or hilly), and the mix of uplands and wetlands.

Subregions are further divided into Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Natural History Themes. Level 1 themes are based on easily observed landforms of subregions, such as wetlands and valley/ridges.

Level 2 themes are more specific breakdowns of Level 1 themes. They refer to distinctive vegetation, habitat types or highly visible geological features. Examples of Level 2 themes for wetlands in the Boreal Forest subregions are bogs, patterned fens, black spruce forests, or shrub land. Level 3 themes are finer breakdowns of Level 2 themes. They include specific features such as rare plants and animals, and specific bedrock and landform types, for instance raised beaches.

Table 1: Natural History Themes

Natural History Themes Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park	
Boreal Forest Natural Region Dry Mixedwood Subregion	
Level I Natural History Themes	Level II Natural History Themes
Non-Sandy Upland – Hummocky Moraine	White spruce forest (W) Mixedwood forest (W) Deciduous forest (W)
Sandy Upland – Sandy Plain	Jack pine forest (W) Deciduous forest (W)
Sandy Upland – Dune Field	Dunes(S) Jack pine forest (S)
Valley-Ridge – Floor/Stream	Muskeg stream (S)
Wetland - Mineral	Marsh (S) Swamp (S) White spruce forest (S) Shrubland (S)
Wetland – Organic	Bog (S) Black spruce forest (S) Shrubland (S)

(W) = theme well represented
(S) = some representation of theme

Because of their detail, themes are most useful for identifying the natural diversity within Alberta. Level 1 themes can usually be seen on

aerial photographs, while Level 2 and Level 3 themes require detailed biophysical studies. Analysis of these themes can determine which sites in Alberta would be the best examples of our natural heritage.

Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park is in the **Dry Mixedwood Subregion** of the **Boreal Forest Natural Region**. Table 1 shows the Level 1 and Level 2 Natural History Themes represented in the park

There are six Level 1 Natural History Themes represented in the park. Fifteen Level 2 Natural History Themes are represented.

2.3 Legislation and Classification

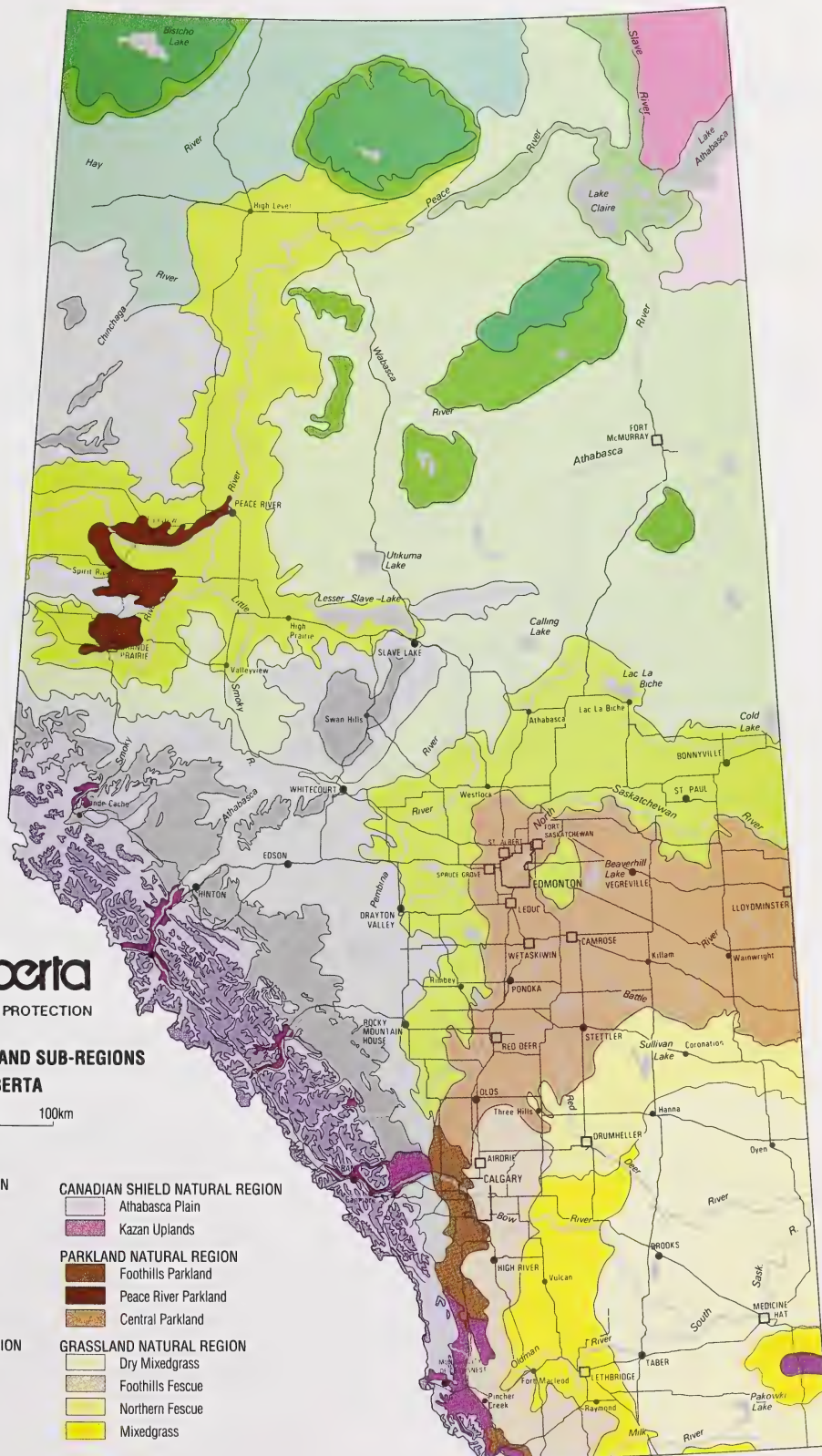
The network of protected areas includes Ecological Reserves, Wilderness Areas, Wildland Provincial Parks, Provincial Parks, Natural Areas, and Provincial Recreation Areas. These classifications provide a range of protection and recreation opportunities, from ecological reserves that require the most protection to provincial recreation areas that provide facilities for intensive outdoor recreation activities.

Provincial parks are currently established under the Provincial Parks Act. This act mandates provincial parks to be developed and maintained:

- for the conservation and management of flora and fauna;
- for the preservation of specified areas and objects therein that are of geological, cultural, ecological, or other scientific interest; and
- to facilitate their use and enjoyment for outdoor recreation.

RSA 1980 cP-22 s3

The current classifications and their corresponding legislation are under review and may be revised in 1999. The purpose of the review is to consolidate protected areas legislation into one act, and to re-align classifications to better reflect the protected areas objectives of the province.



2.4 Contribution of the Park to Provincial Objectives

Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park contributes to all four provincial objectives.

Contributions to Preservation

- Contains 15 Level 2 Natural History Themes of the Dry Mixedwood Subregion. Five of these themes are present in significant numbers or cover a large area.
- Protects a diversity of vegetation of the boreal forest.
- Protects a portion of the shoreline of Lesser Slave Lake, one of the largest lakes in Alberta.

Contributions to Heritage Appreciation

- Provides interpretation and environmental education programs to park visitors and community groups such as schools.
- Offers opportunities for visitors to experience the boreal forest either on their own or through park programs.
- Provides a self-interpretation trail through typical boreal forest.

Contributions to Outdoor Recreation

- Offers visitors the opportunity for camping, hiking and day use using quality facilities and services.
- Provides access to Lesser Slave Lake for swimming, fishing and boating activities.

Contributions to Tourism

- Provides opportunities for nature-based tourism and backcountry experiences.

2.5 Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park as a Natural Heritage Site

In order to satisfy budget requirements and refocus management direction, Recreation and Protected Areas Division of Natural Resources Service has implemented a management strategy that contributes to building a protected areas network in Alberta. This strategy groups

protected areas into two classifications for management purposes – Natural Heritage Sites and Recreation Facility Sites.

Natural Heritage Sites are intended to contribute primarily to the preservation objective, but usually make a significant contribution to heritage appreciation and may contribute to outdoor recreation and tourism.

Recreation Facility Sites contribute primarily to outdoor recreation. These sites may be of local importance with respect to tourism and heritage appreciation. Their land bases tend to be small and are often highly modified.

Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park is classified as a Natural Heritage Site because it contributes substantially all four provincial objectives. Its purpose is:

To protect a portion of landscapes and associated plants and animals typical of the Boreal Forest Natural Region, Dry Mixedwood Subregion, and to provide opportunities for visitors to participate in a variety of heritage appreciation and outdoor recreation activities.

2.5.1 Role of Natural Resources Service in Managing the Park

To manage Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park as a Natural Heritage Site, Alberta Environmental Protection will:

- Establish operating criteria for facility operation, maintenance and fees;
- Maintain responsibility for promoting the province's natural, historical and cultural resources;
- Continue to provide mainly non-personal educational and interpretative programming;
- Provide security services; and
- Retain overall responsibility for resource management.

2.5.2 Role of Private Sector in Managing the Park

The role of the private sector in the management of Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park is outlined below.

- Sucker Creek First Nation is currently operating the campground in Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park under contract.
- The campground is operated and maintained at established provincial standards and fees.
- The facility operator may choose to upgrade existing facilities or to construct new facilities. This development would be approved by the department if consistent with this management plan and with the public's expectations of the park. Such development could be done without public review.
- Except for trails, facility development would only take place within the facility zone in the park.
- The private sector will be encouraged to become partners with the park in the delivery of protection, interpretation, site development and operation services. These partnerships could be with individuals, clubs, volunteers, and other members of the public. These kinds of partnerships have benefited the Recreation and Protected Areas Program in the past, and will continue to do so.

3.0 Overview of Park

3.1 Regional Setting and Access

Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park is located on the northwest shore of Lesser Slave Lake, about 10 kilometers east of the Hamlet of Grouard. Edmonton is about 400 kilometers southeast, and the town of Peace River is about 150 kilometers to the northwest.

Access to the park is via Highway 2 from either the east or the west, then north on Secondary Highway 750 for 16 kilometers, and then east

for eight kilometers along a paved access road to the park boundary.

The access road inside the park is a graveled municipal road, and leads to areas of resource extraction outside the park to the northeast. This road receives heavy industrial use, which can leave it in poor condition.

3.2 Description of park

3.2.1 Geology/ Surficial Deposits/ Landscape

Geology

The bedrock under the park consists of gently tilted sedimentary beds of Upper Cretaceous and Tertiary sandstones and shales, dipping gradually to the southwest. No bedrock outcrops occur in the park.

Surficial Deposits

Surficial deposits form the layers between bedrock and soil. The bottom layer of these deposits is generally till (unsorted gravel and sand) laid down by the last glacier which began to melt some twelve to fifteen thousand years ago. As the glacier receded, lakes¹ and rivers were formed and reformed by the meltwater. The lakes left deposits of silty clay (deposits by lakes are called lacustrine deposits). Rivers left alluvial deposits, often of sandy material.

These surficial deposits have created most of the landforms in the park. The lacustrine deposits have formed buried deltas and a blanket of silty clay that covers much of the park. The sandy beaches have been formed from old beach deposits that have been reworked by wind and waves. The cobble beaches are till which have lost their sand and silt from erosion.

Landscape Features

The topography of the park varies from flat to gently undulating with a gentle slope of less than ten degrees away from shore. An escarpment occurs along the lakeshore east of the

¹ Lesser Slave Lake is a remnant of Lake Peace, a large glacial lake which went through many stages as the glacier retreated to the northeast.

campground. This escarpment is from 3 to 10 meters high, with some abrupt and steep portions. The escarpment slopes are generally densely vegetated with trees and shrubs.

In the eastern portion of this escarpment slumps have occurred, caused by groundwater percolation above an impervious layer of clay. They are of the typical reverse rotation type where large chunks of earth have slipped and a toe has formed at their base. "Perched" ponds have developed throughout the site from ground percolation and precipitation. The slump area is sensitive to influences that could cause erosion. As well, seepage areas that act like quicksand, and numerous hidden fissures and cracks, make the area hazardous.

There are two raised beaches in the park, both located in the eastern portion. The western-most beach extends in an east-west direction for about two kilometers and is about 60 meters above the level of the lake. The easternmost one is higher, indicating that it developed first. These raised beaches are evidence of old shorelines, perhaps dating to glacial times. The soils in these areas are sandy and rapidly drained, with a relatively thin vegetation cover. Disturbances in these areas could initiate erosion.

3.2.2 Soils

Soils of Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park are generally of two major types, grey-wooded soils and organic soils.

Grey-wooded soils cover the majority of the park. These are silty loam to clay loam soils characterized by low humus content, deep leaching of minerals, poor drainage, and are subject to wind and water erosion once cleared of vegetation.

Organic soils are generally found in low-lying, poorly drained sites. These are characterized by a thick peat accumulation.

3.2.3 Climate

The climate in this area is generally characterized as cool temperate continental, with short, warm summers and long, cold winters. The presence of Lesser Slave Lake has a slightly moderating effect on local climate. July is the warmest month with an average temperature of 16°C. January is the coldest month with an average temperature of -12.2°C. Average length of the frost free period is about 88 days.

North and northwest winds predominate in this area. June and July are the wettest months with an average rainfall of 75.7mm. and 88.9mm. respectively. This is also peak visitor season.

3.2.4 Aquatic Resources

The dominant aquatic feature of the park is Lesser Slave Lake. Historically the water level of this lake has been subject to fluctuations from variations in evaporation and annual precipitation. In 1983 a weir at a crest level of 575.5 meters was constructed at the east end of the lake. Since then lake levels have stabilized somewhat, although flooding occurred during high precipitation seasons of 1996 and 1997.

The park is located on the west basin of the lake, which with a maximum depth of about 15.5 meters is shallower than the east basin. It is also hyper-eutrophic (as opposed to the east basin, which is eutrophic), meaning it has very high counts of the nutrients phosphorus and chlorophyll. As a result, blue-green algae can form dense blooms in late summer. These abundant nutrients form the basis of phytoplankton, aquatic vegetation and vertebrate production that support the fish populations.

Shorelines in the park include bulrush/sedge beds, sand beaches, and cobble beaches. The lake bottom slopes quite steeply on the north shore, compared to the south shore.

Several small streams flow through the park and empty into Lesser Slave Lake. Some of these are intermittent streams. However, these small

streams can rise quickly during spring run-off or during heavy rains.

Bogs and swamps are the most common wetland types in the park. A large bog occurs north of the access road in the middle of the park. A shore swamp, only a few feet above the lake level, lies along the shore northwest of Shaw's Point. Old shorelines are visible in this area, indicating it may be a remnant of the lake at higher levels.

3.2.5 Vegetation Communities

There are five major vegetation types in the park, although there is much overlap between the types. The types are mixedwoods, deciduous woods, coniferous woods, wetlands, and sand dune/beach areas.

The mixedwood type covers most of the western portion of the park. These mixedwoods are dominated either by white spruce or aspen/balsam poplar. Common shrubs in spruce-dominated mixedwoods include red-osier dogwood, lowbush cranberry, willows, alders, gooseberry and rose. Where white spruce form a closed canopy, mosses and lichens are common. In aspen-dominated mixedwoods saskatoon, chokecherry, pincherry and beaked hazelnut can be found. The most diversity in these mixedwoods occurs when spruce and aspen co-dominate.

Deciduous woodlands cover the eastern part of the park. Aspen dominate in the drier sites, and balsam poplar in the wetter sites. Common shrubs are rose, gooseberry, buffalo berry and lowbush cranberry.

Coniferous woods are dominated by white spruce. These are usually small areas that are wetter than adjacent mixedwoods.

Black spruce and larch dominate the wetlands in the park. Paper birch, willows, Labrador tea, bog cranberry, cloudberry and three-leaved false Solomon's seal are also common.

In areas of the park that have been disturbed by humans, such as the campground, roads and facility areas, non-native species such as thistle,

lamb's quarters, bladder campion and clover are common.

3.2.6 Wildlife

Numerous mammals occupy the various niches created by the diversity of habitat in the park. Moose, mule deer and black bears are common. Carnivores include wolves, coyotes, lynx, fox and the smaller fisher, weasel and otter. Beaver and muskrat occur in the wetter areas.

Over 200 species of birds use the park area for nesting and for staging during migration. Several raptors, including bald eagles, either nest in the park or use the area for feeding. Small birds include warblers, vireos, sparrows, etc. The park provides only a small amount of suitable nesting habitat for waterfowl, but it is important for migration stops.

The shorelines provide confirmed spawning and rearing areas for northern pike, yellow perch and walleye around Shaw's Point, and lake whitefish along the eastern end (Chabaylo and Knight 1996).

Three species of amphibians have been recorded in the park to date. The Western Toad is a common resident of wet wooded areas. The Wood Frog is a common resident of woodland ponds, while the Chorus Frog is in abundance wherever pools of water gather.

3.2.7 Cultural Resources

Archaeological and Prehistoric Resources

According to some sources, it is likely that a hunting and gathering culture existed in the area as far back as 10,000 years ago. Archaeological surveys conducted in the park have revealed some prehistoric site locations, but they have not been dated. The findings of the surveys are summarized below.

1978 - Two prehistoric sites were located on Shaw Point. They have not been excavated.

1979 - The campground area, day use area and maintenance-administration area were assessed because of proposed development in these areas. No evidence of cultural material was found at the maintenance-administration area or the campgrounds, but 5 sites at the day use area contained evidence, such as fire-broken rock, quartzite flakes, and hearth remnants.

1988 - Archaeological digs conducted at a slump site along the shoreline between Shaw's Bay and Hilliard's Bay revealed a variety of artifacts relating to quartzite tools, and some fire-broken rocks.

Historical Resources

Prior to the arrival of European explorers and traders, the Beaver Indians occupied the area around Lesser Slave Lake. They were excellent hunters, subsisting on moose, bison and caribou, and fish.

The Cree, who came from the east armed with guns and trade goods, expanded into this area in search of fur. The Beaver, unable to compete with guns, moved north and west along the Peace River. Eventually the Beaver also acquired guns, and the Cree advance was halted. The Beaver remain in the Peace River area to this day.

In 1799, David Thompson of the North West Company was the first white man to record viewing Lesser Slave Lake. His exploration initiated the construction of several North West Company trading posts in the area. By 1815 the Hudson's Bay Company had arrived to provide fierce competition until the two companies merged in 1821. One HBC trading post, Lesser Slave Lake House, was located near present day Grouard. This post produced over one-third of the furs in the district, remaining active until it burned in 1932.

In 1846, Father Bourassa established a Roman Catholic mission in Lesser Slave Lake Settlement (now Grouard). In 1862, Father Grouard arrived to take over the mission, which extended from Fort Edmonton to Nome, Alaska.

He earned such respect that the settlement was renamed Grouard in his honor in 1909.

In the late 1800s Klondikers and settlers began moving through the area on their way north, travelling via Lesser Slave Lake and then overland on the Peace River/Grouard Trail. Grouard became a hub of activity, handling all the goods heading into the Peace River Country.

The Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway was built in 1915. Grouard was bypassed, and so lost its position as a regional shipping and transportation hub. Today Grouard is a small hamlet. It has a largely First Nations population, and is a center for vocational training.

3.3 Visitor Use

3.3.1. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Summer Activities

The park is fully operational from approximately May 1 to September 30 annually.

Camping - The park offers 189 campsites with firepits and tables, of which 35 are electrified. Services include firewood, tap water, a dump station, showers, vault toilets, a pay phone and a playground.

Group use - There are three group camping areas with a total of 34 vehicle sites and 10 tent sites. Services include power hookups, firewood, tap water, vault toilet, and enclosed shelters.

Day use - A day use area provides picnic tables, fire pits, firewood, tap water and a parking area. Recreational facilities include horseshoe pitches, an open area, and playground.

Swimming - A sandy beach and warm clear water provide good swimming.

Fishing - World class fishing on Lesser Slave Lake is accessible from Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park. The main catches are Northern

pike, perch and walleye. Fish cleaning stations are provided.

Boating - A boat launch in the park provides access to the lake for motor boats, sailboats, and other water-based recreational activities, such as canoeing, kayaking, water skiing and windsurfing.

Hiking - Several kilometers of trails wind through the campgrounds and to the day use area. North of the campgrounds is the three kilometer Boreal Forest Trail. A 2-kilometer trail from Shaw's Point Resort to Hilliard's Bay Campground has recently been cut.

Winter Activities

Ice Fishing - Access to the boat launch is provided for ice fishing on Lesser Slave Lake.

2.3.2 Heritage Appreciation Opportunities

Visitor Center - A visitor center at the park office provides interpretative displays of natural history themes of the boreal forest.

Amphitheater - Interpretation programs are offered periodically during the summer at the amphitheater located in the Hilliard's Bay campground. Guided hikes are also conducted periodically.

3.3.3 Park Visitation

Campsite occupancy has gradually dropped at Hilliard's Bay. Weather conditions and economic conditions generally affect park visitation. At Hilliard's Bay, the lack of a marina and poor road access for vacation vehicles compounds these conditions, which combined have contributed to a decline in camping at the park over the last 10 years.

Group camp occupancy has fluctuated, but in the last couple of years it has been increasing.

Day use has not been counted in the last couple of years because of traffic counter problems. The traffic counter was reinstalled in 1997.

Previous to that day use remained relatively constant.

Park Occupancy			
	Occupied Campsite Nights ²	Day Use Party Visits	Group Use Nights
1997/98	3243		575
1996/97	2938	0	614
1995/96	3742	0	599
1994/95	3014	12300	377
1993/94	3083	13835	459
1992/93	3730	14625	692
1991/92	3669	18650	594
1990/91	4083	14850	668
1989/90	4017	14115	518
1988/89	4017	14075	601
1987/88	5474	13625	752

4.0 Park Zoning

Zoning is a management tool that divides a landscape into units and identifies the intent and objectives of each unit. It is useful because the "mix" of values in a protected area may vary within it. For instance, preservation values may have a higher priority in some areas, and recreation values may have a higher priority in others.

Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park is divided into three zones - a facility zone, a natural environment zone and an access zone. The intent of the zones is discussed below.

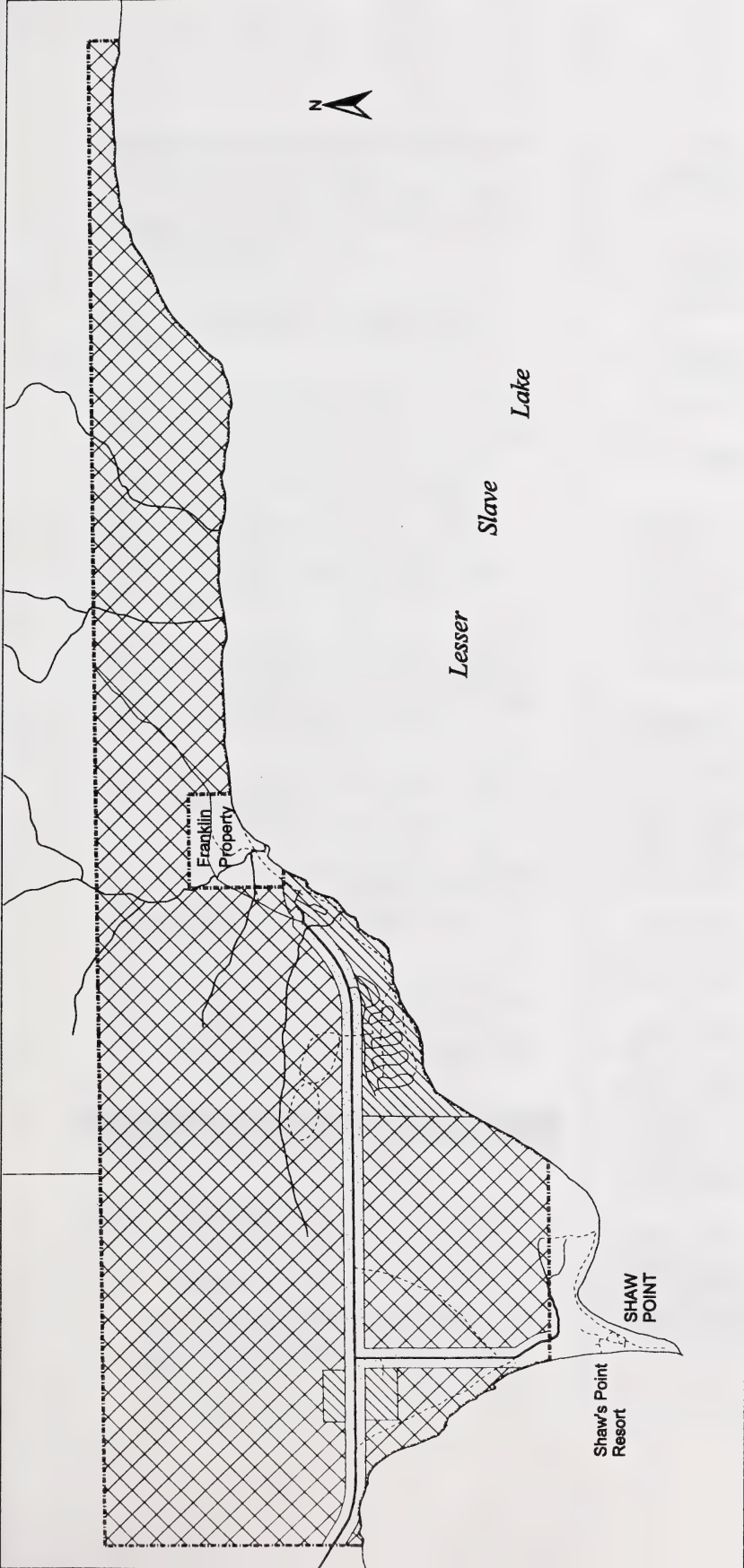
4.1. Facility Zone

The intent of a facility zone is to provide land to accommodate a range of moderate to intensive outdoor recreational activities. The zone will be managed so that the opportunity for these activities will be sustained. Facilities appropriate to this zone are campgrounds and day use areas that accommodate the greatest density and highest levels of visitor use in the park.

At Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park the facility zone includes:

1. campgrounds;

² Occupied campsite night - one site occupied for one night; day use party visit - person(s) in a vehicle entering for one day without staying overnight; group unit night - one camping accommodation unit in a group use area.



HILLIARD'S BAY PROVINCIAL PARK ZONING

-  Natural Environment Zone
-  Facility Zone
-  Access Zone



Alberta
ENVIRONMENT

2. day use area including beach and boat launch at the east end of the park, and;
3. park operations areas including park office, maintenance compound, and residences in the west end of the park.

4.2 Natural Environment Zone

The intent of a natural environment zone is to offer a variety of dispersed outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation activities that bring the visitor in close contact with the natural and cultural heritage of the park. It is intended to provide a higher level of protection to the natural environment than a facility zone. Appropriate activities include hiking, cross-country skiing, and nature appreciation.

In Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park, the natural environment zone is all of the park which is not included in the facility zone and the access zone. The Boreal Forest Trail is in this zone.

4.3 Access Zone

The purpose of the access zone is to provide safe and convenient access to facilities and outdoor recreation opportunities in the park, and to routes through the park.

In the park, the access road is in the access zone. This is a municipal road, used not only for access to the park, but for access to Shaw Point and to crown land northeast of the park.

5.0 Management Guidelines

5.1 Preservation

5.1.1 Objectives

- To protect the diversity of ecosystem communities and species which are in the park.

- To manage the natural environment of the park with minimal interference to natural processes.
- To coordinate protection of the natural environment of the park with agencies and individuals responsible for adjacent lands.
- To support and encourage scientific research and educational activities that may increase understanding of the area.

5.1.2 Management Guidelines

In general, management will not interfere with the natural landscape, ecological processes, or the physical and biological processes of the park. Any interference will be for the protection of a featured resource, or to mitigate human impacts. Management techniques will attempt to duplicate natural processes as much as possible.

Geology/Soils

Some slumping occurs along the shores of Lesser Slave Lake in the eastern portion of the park. Slumping is a natural process and will not be interfered with. Trails will not be placed where they could aggravate or accelerate this natural process.

Erosion of geomorphic or geologic features from human use along trails will be monitored, and any erosion mitigated and/or prevented.

Aquatic Systems

Monitoring of the beach water for recreational quality will be done during peak season. Drinking water will also continue to be monitored. If either water source is not to health standards, the park will inform the public of the possible hazards and take appropriate measures.

Creeks within the park boundaries will continue to be visually monitored for changes in water quality. Headwaters for these creeks are outside the park boundary, so sources of contamination could be outside the park.

Vegetation

Clear and definitive park boundaries need to be maintained and signed to deter illegal ATV activity and poaching of wildlife.

Forest communities will be allowed to succeed naturally.

A hazardous tree removal program will be continued in all facility areas of the park. This involves an annual assessment of those trees deemed susceptible to blow-down. These trees will be marked by park staff and removed by the facility operator.

Pest management will be undertaken annually to determine if any insect or disease infestation has occurred to forest stands. As well, an ongoing noxious weed management program will be undertaken in facility areas.

Herbicide/pesticide use for control of weeds and insects (tent caterpillars, gypsy moths) will follow park policy and will only be used in facility zones.

Vegetation encroaching on facilities such as trails and campsites will be controlled.

If any facility area becomes obsolete it will be reclaimed to a natural state.

There will be no timber harvesting in the park as per legislation.

Wildfires

Suppression of wildfires within the park is Natural Resources Service policy. All wildfires in the park will continue to receive initial attack and assessment by park staff. Further fire assessment and control will be conducted by Land and Forest Service.

The park will develop a Fire Management Plan in consultation with Lands and Forest Service, to be reviewed and updated as required.

Because of fire suppression, fuel load has built up in the facility zones. In conjunction with hazardous tree identification, fuel load in these areas will be assessed to determine if a more

active thinning program is required. This work will be done with Land & Forest Service, High Prairie District.

Appropriate methods for reducing fuel load will be investigated, and could include horse logging and prescribed burns.

Wildlife

Wildlife management will be achieved through the protection of the diversity of habitats in the park. Any proposed management action will be considered for its affect on the habitat and, consequently, on the wildlife.

Problem wildlife management will continue in the park where a hazard to public safety exists. This would include live trapping and removal of bears that frequent the facility areas and have become accustomed to human food. It would also include removing beavers from areas where there is a danger of flooding roads and facilities.

Cultural Resources

The 1979 archaeological survey recommended that further archaeological work and possible mitigation should be done in the day use area if ground disturbance for development was planned. The park will adhere to this recommendation.

The land on which the slump dig of 1988 was carried out was then park land. This land has recently been de-regulated from the park, and is now crown land administered by LFS and leased to Carson Porisky. Natural Resources Service has informed LFS of this archaeological resource, and will work with them to protect the site. (see section 6, *Recreational Lease*).

When and if additional cultural resources are identified and confirmed as significant, they will be mapped and marked. Sites will be monitored to prevent future disturbance from the public and future park developments.

Artifacts or their replicas should remain government property and be utilized for interpretive and educational purposes. Their removal is illegal and strictly prohibited.

Any areas in the park that are of traditional significance to First Nations people will remain undeveloped.

Research

Research projects that increase our understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of the park will be encouraged. Applications for research in the park must be approved by Natural Resources Service.

5.2 Heritage Appreciation

Heritage appreciation is a valuing of our heritage, both natural and cultural. Aids to heritage appreciation include interpretation, environmental education, and information. Interpretation refers to effective communication of our natural and cultural heritage in a way that helps people appreciate, understand and care for it. Environmental education is generally more formal, and usually tied in to school curriculums. Information helps visitors plan their visit to the park and makes their visit more enjoyable by creating awareness of park features and of park regulations.

These services can all be provided as personal or impersonal service. For instance, interpretation is a personal service, offered personally by a Conservation Officer leading a nature walk. Interpretation can also be offered as an impersonal service through signs and displays.

5.2.1 Objectives

- To encourage awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the natural and cultural features of the park, and of the park's ecosystems and their interrelationships.
- To foster understanding of the provincial protected areas network and the role of Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park within it.
- To provide information to the public about Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park.
- To foster stewardship of the park.

5.2.2 Management Guidelines

Standards for heritage appreciation services have been established for protected areas in the province. According to these standards, Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park will provide a low level of personal heritage appreciation services. Conservation Officers are trained in interpretative skills, and can offer guided hikes, special events, and evening or afternoon programs during July and August. They can also provide environmental education services on request, and provide information to visitors during normal working hours.

Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park will provide a medium level of non-personal heritage appreciation services. This includes the self-guiding Boreal Trail, the Visitor Center, and Adventure Packs. There are also a variety of regional and park brochures available for visitors.

Interpretation

The following themes are appropriate for interpretation at Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park:

Boreal Forest – The park lies in the Boreal Forest Natural Region. There are four varieties of vegetation communities represented in the park; deciduous, mixedwood, coniferous, and wetlands.

Lake – Lesser Slave Lake is a major water body in northern Alberta. It has a complex aquatic ecosystem that provides habitat for a variety of fish and birds.

Fish – Lesser Slave Lake is habitat for 14 species of fish. It supports a commercial fishery and a large sports fishery.

Birds – over 200 species of birds can be seen in the park.

Archaeology – Archaeological digs have revealed that ancient aboriginal people camped on the shores of the lake.

Cultural History – Grouard and the surrounding area has a rich history of aboriginal people, fur traders and settlers. The Peace River/Grouard Trail ran along the north shore of the lake through what is now the park.

The Visitor Center in the park office was initially meant to provide interpretation through

displays of regional flora and fauna. Ways to enhance use of the center will be investigated. For instance, the facility operator and other local groups will be approached for suggestions about its use, and the availability of travelling displays to supplement/replace the permanent display will be looked into.

The facility operator has expressed interest in delivering programs on local First Nations history. One possibility is providing teepees for camping.

Volunteers will be encouraged to help with the delivery of interpretation services.

The amphitheatre seats 60 to 80 visitors. It is used by park staff for occasional interpretation presentations, and is adequate for present levels of use.

Birding is becoming a popular pastime, and is an activity which offers both heritage appreciation and outdoor recreation opportunities. Hilliard's Bay is habitat for many birds, but there has not been a bird survey of the park. Natural Resources Service will look for interested volunteers to conduct a bird survey. It will also seek cooperation with the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory and Kimiwan Lake Interpretative Center.

Environmental Education

Requests from school groups, day camps, and youth groups will be accommodated when possible throughout the year. Information on environmental education is available on request.

Visitor Information

The information cubes and kiosk at the entrance to the park will be updated.

Information signs dealing with water safety will be placed at the boat launch.

A campground host program will be encouraged. Hosts assist in providing information to the public by personal contact and by handing out brochures and notices.

A full range of park and regional brochures will be kept in stock at the office for public distribution, and also supplied to regional tourism centers for distribution.

The facility operator will assist in delivering park information to visitors.

5.3 Outdoor Recreation

5.3.1 Objectives

- To provide a variety of quality outdoor recreation opportunities, facilities and services that meet protection objectives.
- To encourage private sector and volunteer involvement in the delivery of recreation programs and services that are consistent with park objectives.
- To ensure that visitors gain full enjoyment of park resources by providing information about visitor opportunities.
- To continue existing programs which enhance public safety and security.

5.3.2 Management Guidelines

The park offers opportunities for both land-based and water-based recreation, such as hiking, bird watching, swimming, boating and fishing. The park will continue to offer these opportunities for outdoor recreation to the public.

Natural Resources Service will seek partnerships with the private sector to deliver recreational services and opportunities in Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park. The private facility operator, who operates the campgrounds, is one example of a partnership with the private sector. Other recreational services and opportunities that are consistent with a natural heritage park would also be considered for partnership.

Recreation Development

As a provincial park, permanent private commercial operations will not be considered for Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park. Leasing of

parkland for commercial recreational development will also not be considered.

Concessions that complement recreational activities, such as food service and boat rentals, may be allowed if there is sufficient demand.

Special events will be considered if those activities are consistent with park objectives and complement other park uses. Applications for special event activities are available from the park office.

Camping

The powered sites in the park are the most heavily used campsites. Additional power hook-ups may be considered if funding is available.

An assessment of camping loops D and E will be completed to determine if one or both can be converted to a pull-through stall system. This re-development would accommodate the longer RV units that are becoming more common. If this re-development is not economically feasible, alternative uses of the loops will be explored.

The facility operator will construct a firewood shelter in the central woodlot location. This will keep the firewood supply dry.

The campground entrance booth has been modified and enlarged by the facility operator. These modifications will allow for office space as well as a small retail space for selling confectionery and campground supplies.

There may be some enlarging or re-arranging of the stalls in the campground to improve their accessibility by larger RV units.

A campground host will be actively recruited annually to assist in providing public information services and campground security. The existing host site in the campground will continue to be set aside for use by the hosts.

Universally accessible facilities are not presently provided in the campground. Consideration will be given during any upgrading program to provide two universally accessible campsites and accessible toilet facilities.

The area around the shower building will be landscaped to a proper standard by the facility operator. This work was not done when the facility was originally constructed.

Consideration would be given to re-locating the power pedestals from the existing graveled parking lot into B and C group areas.

Trails

There are several opportunities for hiking in the park. This activity will continue to be encouraged with enhancement of the existing trail system.

North of the campground, the three-kilometer Boreal Forest Trail goes through a typical boreal forest. This trail consists of two loops, the first maintained as a self-guided gravel trail (1.6 kilometers) and the second as a cleared rustic trail with no gravel surface (1.4 kilometers). The facility operator will upgrade the second loop to a gravel standard.

The trail from Shaw's Point resort to the campground (approx. 2 kilometers) has been cleared, and will be upgraded to a gravel standard. This work will be done with Alberta Job Corp assistance.

A trail extends along the shoreline east of the day use area, and then loops back. This trail, called the Beach Ridge Trail, will be maintained for summer use.

Alberta Trailnet has selected the north shore of Lesser Slave Lake as a portion of the route for the north/south extension of the Trans Canada Trail³. This multi-use trail would connect Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park with Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. The trail would, for the most part, be developed within a 400-meter wide strip of land along the north shore, following the historic Grouard Trail as much as possible. This

³ The Trans Canada Trail links the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean. A north/south trail through Alberta, developed by Alberta Trailnet, will link to the Arctic Ocean. Part of this trail will continue from Slave Lake along the north shore of Lesser Slave Lake, and then to Grouard and Peace River. This unique trail will provide hiking and backpacking opportunities for the public and will be a big benefit to tourism in the area.

strip of land is under protective notation (PNT) by Alberta Environmental Protection to protect its recreational and historical values, and is under consideration for addition to Alberta's network of recreation and protected areas (see Section 7.3, *Addition to the Park*). Natural Resources Service supports the trail concept, and will aid in its development where possible. Local municipalities also support the trail concept, and committees have been established in High Prairie and Slave Lake to plan and construct the trail.

When an alternate road has been developed for industrial use, the existing road running through the east end of the park will be converted into a walking trail. It could be joined to the Trans Canada Trail along the north shore.

Swimming

The park has an excellent sandy beach. The water is warm and shallow and offers excellent wading and swimming opportunities. A beach of about 100 meters long will be kept clear of debris for sun bathing. A swimming area delineated by buoy markers will be maintained.

Regular beachwater quality sampling for recreational purposes will continue over the summer season.

Boating/Fishing

Power boating, water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, row boating, sailing and wind surfing occur at Hilliard's Bay. These are popular recreation activities, and opportunities for them will continue to be offered.

The park has a boat launch and parking lot to accommodate fishing boats and trailers. Shaw's Point Resort adjacent to the park has marina facilities for those who wish to moor their boats.

The public has identified a need for a marina and better boat launch facility. A marina facility will not be constructed due to cost, and because marina facilities are available at nearby Shaw's Point Resort.

The present boat launch will be maintained for accessibility. This varies with lake water levels and sand deposition patterns. The area was dredged after the last high water levels, but wave action continues to silt it in. To accommodate these natural changes the launch pads will be extended into the lake.

There are no current plans to extend the dock or make it wider. A variety of visitors use the dock, including anglers, children, and boaters. Congestion will be monitored and managed, if necessary, through extra patrolling and/or signing.

In response to public demand, a vault toilet will be installed in the boat launch area.

Sportfishing for northern pike, yellow perch and walleye occurs on Lesser Slave Lake. Fishing for walleye is the most popular and the lake is considered among the best walleye sports fishery in the province. Natural Resources Service staff will continue to monitor the fishery through patrols and enforcement of regulations.

Winter Activities

Recreation activities at the park have a summer focus, and winter programming has not been provided in the past.

The main road to the day use and boat launch area is plowed in the winter to allow lake access for ice fishing and snowmobiles.

Snowmobiles are not allowed in the park. However snowmobiles can use the boat launch to load/unload their machines to access the lake.

Trail maintenance for cross-country skiing will not be undertaken unless significant public demand warrants. Should this demand occur, attempts will be made to organize a local ski club to assume responsibility for trail grooming.

Park Operations

Patrons of Shaw's Point Resort frequently use the park dumping station. This is contrary to Park Regulations, and incurs extra costs for the campground operator. Commencing the summer

of 1998, enforcement staff will patrol this area on a regular basis to discourage non-visitors from using this facility. Charging non-visitors for discharging sewage is an alternative that will be explored.

Volunteers and special programs such as Northern Alberta Job Corps provide supplementary services and will continue to be involved for public benefit.

Potable Water

Water for the park presently comes from three drilled wells. The water quality is poor and a significant waterworks infrastructure is required to improve the supply of potable water. The Municipal District of Big Lakes is presently studying use of the lake as a water supply for the hamlet of Grouard. Should this prove feasible, one scenario is that a lake intake pumping facility be constructed on park land, the water piped to Grouard, and then treated. Treated water for Hilliard's Bay would then be piped back to the park.

If this project goes ahead, the park would consider hooking into this system for the provision of water services. This would reduce the existing infrastructure as well as the costs of maintaining a potable water supply for the park. The park will work with the M.D. and cost share a portion of this project.

Regular water sampling of the current potable water supply will continue.

Waste Management

Solid waste from the park will continue to be hauled to the municipal landfill in Grouard. The M.D. of Big Lakes has developed a regional landfill facility in the Enilda area. Once the Grouard landfill is phased out, park waste will be hauled to the new facility.

A fish offal digester system is located near the water distribution plant. This system reduces the cost of handling the high volumes of fish offal. Health regulations prohibit the dumping of animal remains in landfill sites.

Liquid waste will continue to be hauled to the lagoon in Grouard. Liquid waste from the shower building is pumped to an evaporation field north of the campground.

Recycling Initiatives

The park will encourage recycling and continue to be involved in these initiatives in partnership with the facility operator.

Public Safety

Public safety will continue to be provided through patrols and enforcement activities by park staff. They are trained for, and will provide, search and rescue activities on park land and on the lake.

Visitors will be encouraged to become involved in a Parkwatch program (i.e. watching for thefts in the campground, suspicious individuals, etc).

Emergency evacuation and shutdown plans have been developed for the park and will continue to be updated annually in cooperation with the facility operator.

The park will continue to participate in Environment Canada's Severe Weather Watch program.

Arrangements with the M.D. of Big Lakes will be sought for the provision of emergency services (i.e. structural fire protection, road maintenance and ambulance services, etc).

A close working relationship will be maintained with the High Prairie RCMP detachment regarding public safety and park security.

High road speed along the access road into the campground is an ongoing problem. The posted speed limit will continue to be enforced by park staff.

5.4 Tourism

Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park is part of a group of nature-based tourism destination sites around Lesser Slave Lake. These sites include Lesser

Slave Lake Provincial Park, Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park, Winagami Lake Provincial Park, and Kimiwan Lake. Grouard, rich in local history, is also nearby. Together, these sites provide an outstanding tourism package that could be marketed for its nature-based recreational opportunities and local history. The development of the Alberta Trailnet trail along the north shore would add to the attraction of the area.

5.4.1 Objectives

- To work with the other sites to develop a coordinated approach to marketing and promotion.
- To promote the park in local communities and regionally.
- To support tourism initiatives of the local aboriginal groups
- To support Alberta Trailnet initiatives and the tourism opportunities it presents

5.4.2 Management Guidelines

Natural Resources Service will develop a coordinated marketing approach among its sites in the Lesser Slave Lake region, including Winagami, Hilliard's Bay and Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Parks. It will also approach Kimiwan Lake Bird Society and the Hamlet of Grouard to develop a regional approach to the promotion of nature and culture-based tourism opportunities.

Natural Resources Service will continue to work with local and regional tourist groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and Big Lake Country Tourism to promote the park, and will encourage the facility operator to do the same.

Local aboriginal bands are promoting their cultural heritage as a tourism opportunity. The park supports these initiatives, and will work with the bands towards developing the tourism potential of the park and the region.

A multi-use recreational trail along the north shore of Lesser Slave Lake would contribute to the outdoor recreation and tourism objectives of Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park. Natural Resources Service supports this Alberta Trailnet initiative, and will assist in its development and marketing where possible.

6.0 Dispositions Within The Park

Presently there are two different types of surface dispositions in the park: license of occupation, and easements for power and gas.

License of Occupation

Enerplus presently holds a License of Occupation (LOC) for the service road through the eastern portion of the park that connects to the M.D. access road. This road was originally a winter haul road for a local lumber mill. The LOC was transferred to Hillcrest Resources in 1992. Hillcrest applied for and received a 5-year LOC and also upgraded the road to all season status. During this 5-year period Hillcrest amalgamated with Enermarc, which has now become Enerplus. Enerplus has since received 2 yearly extensions, the latest one to expire in November 1999. A condition of the LOC is that Enerplus maintains the LOC portion of the road, as well as the MD road in the park.

As a result of this LOC, there is industrial traffic through the park year round. This traffic degrades the road and creates dust problems during the dry season.

The expectation of Natural Resources Service is that Enerplus will develop an alternate route outside the park, leaving the M.D. road to traffic in the park and to Shaw's Point. However, to date they have been unable to do this, and industrial traffic continues in the park.

This road is also used by First Nations to access the Kapawe'no First Nations reserve at the Narrows. They will be allowed to continue to use this road to access their land.

Easements

Power and gas easements within the park provide power and gas to the park and to adjacent private land (Shaw's Point Resort, cabin subdivision). They will continue to be managed following park policy. The park will request that future utility easements be placed underground for visual aesthetics.

Any mineral leases in the park will be sold with no surface access, so there will be no oil and gas exploration or drilling from within the park.

7.0 Surrounding Lands

Land immediately west of the park is crown land, but beyond that to the west is the Kapawe'no First Nations Reserve. Land north of the park is within the Tolko Forest Management Agreement. Much of this land has been disturbed through oil/gas and seismic activity.

A strip of land adjacent to Shaw's Point Resort, as well as some other small parcels of land in the resort area, were recently deregulated from the park. This land is leased to Shaw's Point Resort for recreation. The lease will now be managed by Land and Forest Service.

7.1 Access Road

The access road in the park belongs to the M.D. of Big Lakes. This five-kilometer stretch of gravel road from the park entrance to the day use area turnoff is in poor shape. It is in need of major re-construction as the base has deteriorated to the point that gravel capping will not solve the problem.

The lack of an access road in good condition for recreational vehicles is probably a factor in the decline of visitor attendance in the park. Ideally the road should be paved to provide better service to park users.

Discussions with the M.D. regarding upgrading the road have not been successful. Natural Resources Service will continue to pursue discussions with the M.D. and industrial users,

as there may be some cost sharing opportunities to have the road upgraded to a proper paved standard.

7.2 Franklin Property

Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ section of land (SE section 20 TWP 75 R 13 w of 5th) is privately owned and surrounded by provincial park on three sides with Lesser Slave Lake on the fourth. This piece of land is the $\frac{1}{4}$ section originally owned by Mr. Glen Hilliard in the early 1900s. The land has remained in the family and is presently owned by Mrs. Hilliard Franklin of Minnesota. The family has preferred to retain ownership of this land, but is supportive of the park.

A conservation easement arrangement with the family is presently being explored. With this arrangement, the private land would be held in trust by Alberta Environmental Protection for conservation purposes. Alberta Environmental Protection would manage the private land in accordance with the wishes of the private landowner.

7.3 North Shore Protective Notation (PNT)

The PNT along the north shore of Lesser Slave Lake is a 400 meter-wide strip stretching from Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park to Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. Alberta Parks and Recreation placed this land under reservation in 1984. Since then a Kapawe'no First Nations Reserve has been established at the Narrows. This land is excluded from the PNT.

The north shore has a variety of cultural, recreational and natural values:

- A historic trail used at the turn of the century follows the north shore from Slave Lake to Grouard. The trail is still visible in spots.
- Remnants of several old settlements, trapper's cabins, and grave sites remain.
- Alberta Trailnet has chosen the north shore as the route for its north-south provincial trail. This trail would increase the potential

for backcountry tourism opportunities along the north shore.

- The shoreline has a high diversity of vegetation communities that provide habitat for a high number of bird species. The littoral zone is critical spawning habitat for fish.

The north shore has been proposed as a candidate site in the Special Places program, and if this proposal is carried further this land could become a protected area, one that would support a trail along the north shore and provide some management of the area. However, its designation would depend on the activities allowed in the area, and the type and extent of development proposed.

8.0 Coordination with Other Agencies

Protected areas do not exist in isolation from surrounding lands. What happens on lands around a protected area may have an impact inside it. In turn, management practices within the park may affect adjacent lands.

Because of this, Hilliard's Bay Provincial Park recognizes the importance of regional cooperation in making decisions about land use. It seeks to be a "good neighbor" with adjacent land managers, with the local community, and with other agencies.

Objectives

- To take a lead role in initiating communications with adjacent land managers.
- To seek solutions to cross-boundary concerns with adjacent land managers and adjacent landowners.

In particular, the park will seek to coordinate management of the park with the following.

Land and Forest Service

Regular contact with Land and Forest Service will be maintained to coordinate a park fire management plan. They will be consulted on

land management issues on crown land surrounding the park, such as logging near the north boundary, and other activities of private industry that could affect the park. Land and Forest Service will be managing the crown land between the park and Shaw's Point Resort, and will be consulted on management issues that arise with this neighbour.

Franklin Property Owners

Discussions for a conservation easement with the Franklin property owners will continue. Meantime, contact will be maintained with them on mutual concerns such as the Enerplus service road which goes through their property, and about bridges and trails on the property.

M.D. of Big Lakes

The M.D. of Big Lakes will be contacted when necessary about the access road in the park. The park will monitor Enerplus Energy Services Ltd. for their compliance with the road use agreement.

Local First Nations

Local first nations such as Kapawe'no and Sucker Creek will be kept informed of Park programs and concerns. They will be encouraged to participate in special events.

Local Groups

Local organizations and student and youth groups will be encouraged to take part in park programs.

9.0 Public Involvement

Public participation in this management plan was in two stages: review of the draft plan by stakeholders, and an open house.

In the first stage, the draft plan was sent to stakeholders, interested individuals, community groups and other government agencies for review.

An open house was held in High Prairie to give the general public the opportunity to review and comment on the plan.

Comments from the reviews were addressed in the plan. It was then signed off for departmental approval, and became the official plan of the park.

10.0 Implementation and Review

10.1 Implementation of Management Guidelines

Most management guidelines will be carried out through on-going operations in the parks.

The following projects have been identified in the plan. Their implementation will be dependent on staffing and funding resources.

Preservation

Assessment of fuel load in the facility area of the park, and methods of reducing it.

Seek partnerships with other groups to participate in bird inventory and other research projects.

Heritage Appreciation

Look for partnerships with Sucker Creek First Nation and other agencies to present heritage appreciation programs.

Look for travelling display opportunities for the Visitor Center.

Outdoor Recreation

Assessment of use patterns in campground, particularly Loop D and E. Look for opportunities to increase number of powered sites, to enlarge/reorient some sites, and to develop universally accessible campsites.

Upgrade second loop of Boreal Forest Trail to graveled standard.

Complete trail from Shaw's Point Resort to Hilliard's Bay campground.

Install vault toilet at boat launch.

Landscape around the shower building.

Construct a firewood shelter.

Tourism

Develop coordinated marketing/promotional approach with other tourism attractions and destinations around Lesser Slave Lake.

10.2 Plan Review

The management plan will be formally reviewed not more than 10 years after approval. Earlier reviews may be required if there are significant events or changes deviating from the intent of the plan.

Natural Resources Service will initiate the plan review. Members of the local groups and agencies who helped in its preparation will be asked to participate. The general public will also be given an opportunity to review the amended plan.

The review will:

- Review the objectives and the effectiveness of the management guidelines outlined in this plan;
- Address issues that arise subsequent to the approval of this plan; and
- Revise those sections of the plan which need updating because of changing situations.

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